

1/7/81

Mrs. Clusen

Dr. Burr


Mr. Hollister

Dr. Edington

Dr. Thiessen

Mr. Mayhew

Mr. Gottlieb

Mr. McCraw 

Dr. Bond

Dr. Cronkite

Attached is the Loma Linda response to the Mitchell/Weisgall/DOI request for a cost estimate providing basic health care for the peoples of the 4 atolls, with additional services provided outside the Marshalls. The estimated cost is ~\$3M as opposed to ~\$10M under the previously submitted all-inclusive plan.



Bruce W. Wachholz

Addendum to Health Care Plan for the Marshall Islands

This addendum is submitted at the request of the Department of the Interior following the discussions held at the Department on December 10, 1980. The purpose is to submit a plan for a very limited primary health care to be provided for the inhabitants actually living on the atolls of Rongelap, Utirik, Enewetak, and Kili. The plan is not recommended by the Loma Linda University team and objections to the plan will be listed after a brief outline of the health care plan.

The requirements for health care will include the following:

1. One Medical Assistant to be employed full time and stationed on each of the four mentioned atolls. For the immediate present (if the plan were to begin before medical assistants could complete a three-year course of training, Medex could be recruited from those working at Majuro or Ebeye if the Marshall Islands government were willing to apply whatever pressure would be necessary to assign them to work on the atolls.
2. The present clinic facility should be upgraded to the status of a health center as specified in our previous report submitted to the Department of Interior on December 3, 1980.
3. Housing facilities would need to be built for each of the medical assistants.
4. Radio communication equipment would be necessary at each health center and at Ebeye or Kwajalein.
5. A logistic supply system would need to be established at the hospital at Ebeye or Kwajalein and staffed with a full time person capable of handling pharmaceutical and other supplies.
6. The medical ship outlined in section of our report submitted on December 3 would be necessary. This ship should be outfitted with laboratory, x-ray and dental facilities on board.

This plan would provide primary care on each of the four atolls delivered by a medical assistant who would be supervised by a medical doctor (general practitioner). This physician would be stationed in Ebeye or Kwajalein but most of the time would be doing itinerant work aboard ship visiting the four atolls. Since this plan would provide no upgrading of the hospitals at Majuro or Ebeye, it would be necessary to send all patients requiring hospitalization to Honolulu. Dental care would be provided by a part time dentist aboard the ship with assistance of a dental hygienist. One public

health nurse would be employed to conduct health education programs, sanitary evaluations, maternal and child health preventive programs, immunization programs, etc.

The manpower needs for this plan would require the following:

1. Four medical assistants
2. One public health nurse/health educator
3. One physician (general practitioner)
4. One pharmacist/logistics supply/transportation officer
5. One part time dentist
6. One dental hygienist/dental assistant

The objections to this limited plan are as follows:

1. The arbitrary selection of people to receive care being only those actually living on the four named atolls is unfair as it represents only a portion of the people of the four atolls and to make any other designation of additional persons to be included results in an inability to do anything other than a comprehensive medical care program, e.g. What is the rationale for selecting care for the people now living on Keli but excluding those on Ujelang? Why should the large number of people from Bikini who live on Ebeye and Majuro be excluded? The only equitable answer to the coverage problem is to provide comprehensive care to all people living in the Marshall Islands.
2. This plan would not provide even the basics of primary care specialty services such as care provided by a Pediatrician, Internist, Obstetrician/Gynecologist, or General Surgeon.
3. Without adequate hospital facilities in the Marshall Islands, there is no real emergency care available that would adequately fulfill the required needs; e.g. By the time a patient is evacuated from his home atoll and transported to Kwajalein to await a scheduled flight to Honolulu with an additional long transport, it would be too late for emergency care to be effective.
4. There would be no specialty services for even the non-emergency care needed such as radiologic services, psychiatric examinations, orthopedic evaluations, ophthalmologic evaluations, etc. It is highly inappropriate to refer non-English-speaking people to Honolulu for any evaluation required by one of the medical specialists and it is impracticable to transport the specialists to the Marshall Islands for consultations on such a small population base.

5. This plan would provide no capability for the Marshall Islands Government to take over the required care even with long range planning.
6. This plan would not be cost effective.
7. Without adequate hospital facilities, it would be very difficult to recruit a physician for the responsibility involved as this would place him in the untenable position of having responsibility for total primary care including emergency care but would provide no adequate support in terms of hospital facilities to enable him to render the mandatory care within his capability.
8. The social disruptions and secondary effects of transporting large numbers of non-English-speaking people to Honolulu would result in many secondary negative situations.

Budget for Four Atoll Only Plan
(\$ in 000's)

Overhead (40% of Personnel)	\$ 88.40
Training	
Contractor Services	50.00
Scholarship	72.00
Supplies	
Medical	200.00
Other	30.00
Equipment	
Medical	250.00
Other	50.00
Building (lease)	25.00
Personnel	
Physician/Dental (Expatriot U.S.)	80.00
Medical Support (Expatriot U.S.)	60.00
" " (Marshallese)	48.00
Other (Expatriot U.S.)	23.00
" (Marshallese)	10.00
Transportation	
Recruiting	75.00
Ship	1059.00
Other	25.00
Referrals	480.00
Communication	10.00
New Construction	200.00
Maintenance	<u>20.00</u>
 Total	 \$2,855.40